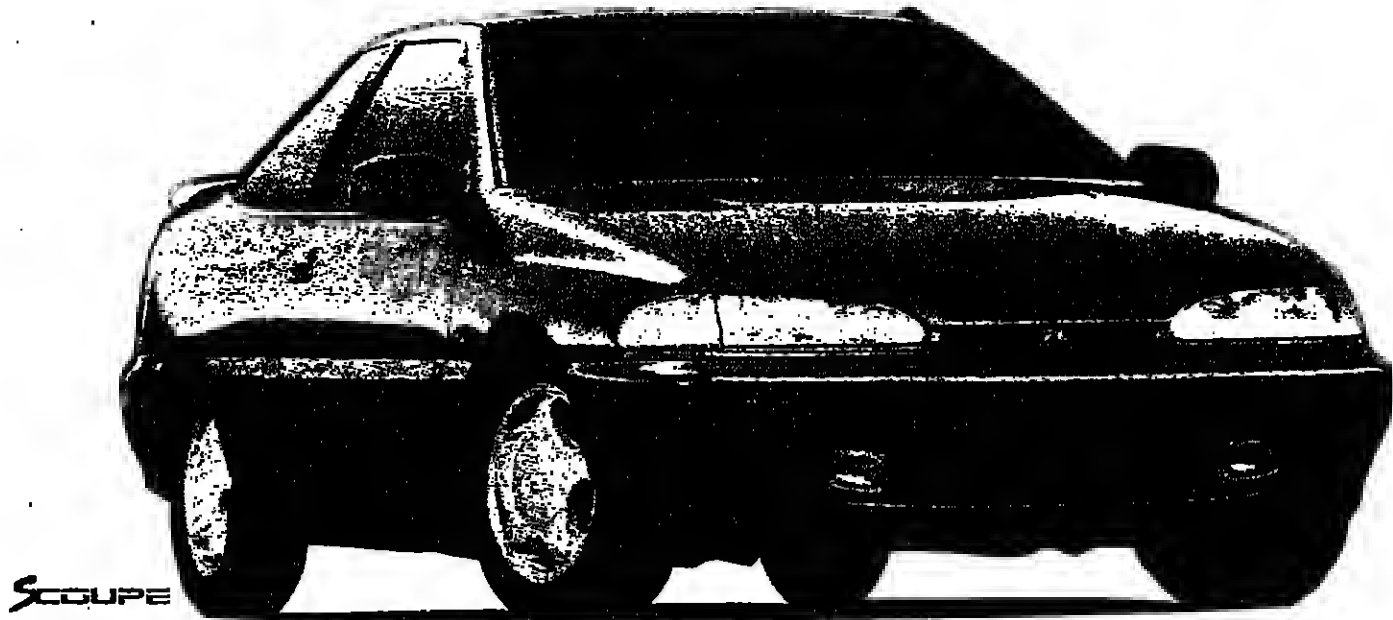


HYUNDAI '93

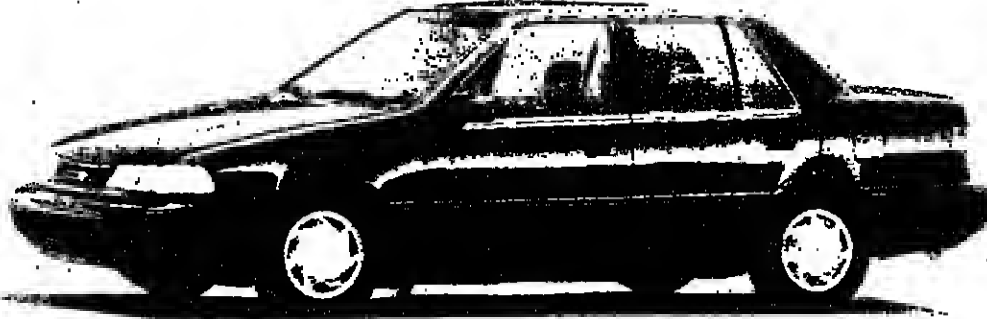
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HYUNDAI

Saudi Communist Party does not dream of power, but insists on basic reform

By Sausan Ghosheh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Saudi Communist Party (SCP) does not have any illusions of reaching power in its puritan Muslim homeland. Its moderate aim is to continue to insist on instituting a democratic form of government in the kingdom, said Hamad Al Mubarak, a member in exile of the SCP.

The SCP is demanding reform of the political process, and not a radical change in the system. "We are only asking for democracy, not the downfall of the monarchy," Mr. Mubarak said.

Mr. Mubarak said the Gulf war was a turning point for Saudi Arabia and the SCP.

The Gulf war revealed "the corruption, the military weakness, the lack of national unity and loyalty" that characterise the political and social life in Saudi Arabia, he said.

It also emphasised Saudi Arabia's total dependence on the United States, said Mr. Mubarak, who attended a recent Jordanian Communist Party conference.

The Gulf war has increased the awareness of the Saudi people and the percentage of Saudis who are demanding democracy, according to Mr. Mubarak.

Democracy, Mr. Mubarak said, has widespread support in Saudi Arabia, even among members of the royal family, but it is finding resistance from King Fahd's branch of the ruling family.

Asked whether a meeting was held between Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz and the SCP, Mr. Mubarak said no official meeting was held, but that Prince Abdullah met with certain individuals accused of being members of the SCP. He added that the crown prince is popular in the country and a known supporter of democracy.

He emphasised that "if democracy is not instituted in

Saudi Arabia, violence will spread throughout the country due to tribalism, factionalism and regionalism."

"Saudi Arabia has no freedoms, no constitution and no unions. It pays no attention to human rights agreements," Mr. Mubarak asserted.

The absence of democracy, he added, has brought together opposition parties and forces in Saudi Arabia and increased the public's support for them. The SCP has managed to cooperate with the Democratic National Alliance and the Shi'ite reformist movement, he said.

"The SCP cannot be ignored as an important political force in the country. Even the government looks for our literature and our analysis of events," he claimed. Support for the party, Mr. Mubarak added, is found throughout Saudi Arabia, but is mainly located in the south, where a large labour population lives. He refused to disclose any numbers or percentages, of the party's strength, explaining that it is an underground party and thus it is impossible to know numbers.

Mr. Mubarak is anticipating a change in the name and the platform of the party at the SCP's next conference. He refused to divulge any information about the time and place of the meeting.

He said the SCP, which dates back to the 1950s, changed its name to the Saudi Communist Party in its first conference in 1975. Now, Mr. Mubarak said, the SCP is discussing these changes in order to focus on the priorities of the current era and to become a mass political party.

He said the SCP is socialist in its principles. But, he said, "in this period, it believes it should focus on democracy, human rights, social development, political and economic independence, perceiving that socialism is something that may materialise in the very distant future."

Expellees stage overnight sit-in near Israeli lines

MARJ AL ZOHOOR, Lebanon (Agencies) — Nearly 400 Palestinian expellees began a night-long sit-in facing Israel's military line in South Lebanon Monday, protesting the resumption of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington.

The sit-in was part of a "martyrdom march" the expellees launched from their tent camp toward the Israeli army checkpoint at Zomaraya on the northeastern edge of Israel's self-styled "security zone."

As they dug in for the night, spokesman Abdul Aziz Rantisi said: "We hold the Palestinian and Arab delegations to the talks responsible for every drop of blood that could be spilled during our confrontation with enemy soldiers."

Israel expelled the men Dec. 17, claiming they were Muslim fundamentalists belonging to groups like Hamas who instigated violence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"It's the only way we can protest the betrayal by the Palestinian delegation which is going to the so-called peace talks after promising not to return to Washington before we go home," Dr. Rantisi said.

"It's also a message to the United Nations, to our families

and our people that we are still here," Dr. Rantisi said.

The march was halted after Israeli soldiers raked the rocky terrain around them with machine-gun fire and tanks fired six shells.

The 396 expellees camped just 300 metres from tanks guarding the Israeli checkpoint.

They trekked the two kilometres from their camp carrying backpacks filled with clothes and food and brandishing copies of the Koran.

"We are going to stay here. It doesn't make sense to risk getting hurt," Doctor Omar Faroune said. "We are going to camp here, and being pictured by the news media is our only way not to be forgotten in Washington."

With a smile, Nasser Hamemreh, 29, a legal expert in Bethlehem, said: "Of course our protest today will change nothing at all in Washington, but it is important for the people of Gaza and the (rest of the occupied) territories."

"I hope this helps to isolate the Palestinian delegation," he added.

"Without a doubt the Israelis will announce a more flexible timetable for our return when the talks resume, but we don't trust them," Mr. Hamemreh said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Territories
18:30 Maguy
19:00 News in French
19:15 Ushuaia
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Beadles About
21:10 Forever Green
22:00 News in English
22:30 Posture Film

PRAYER TIMES

04:26 Fajr
05:50 (Sunrise) Duha
12:33 Dhuhur
16:12 'Asr
19:17 Maghreb
20:41 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Switkeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
St. In the Salla Church Tel. 661757
Trinitarian Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assam International Church Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624523
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of the Redeemer Tel. 675491
Church of the Redeemer Tel. 638526

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively cold and partly cloudy, and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be westerly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 8 / 18
Aqaba 16 / 27
Deserts 6 / 20
Jordan Valley 14 / 26

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 18, Aqaba 27. Humidity readings:

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammed Al Nahawi 699925
Dr. Khalid Mu'addi 743500
Dr. Ghazi Abu Shikha 752405
Dr. Adnan Al Zughoul 898140
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 782336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Al Salan pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649445
Shamsani pharmacy 637660
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ali Al Omari (-)
Alqods pharmacy (-)
ZARQA:
Dr. Rajeh Saqer (-)

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Amman Municipality 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381352
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Aidkha Maternity, J. Amn 6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malika, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsani 6641714
Shamsani Hospital 669151
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musabir Hospital 6672273
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Islamic, Al-Musabir 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Adrafish 7751126
Army, Marka 89161715
Queen Alia Hospital 686100
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)883323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

1bn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)909990
IBSD:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775
Im Al Nafces Hospital (02)347100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:00 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:30 Dhahran (RJ)
06:35 Damascus (RJ)
06:45 Cairo (RJ)

16:15 Aqaba (RJ)
16:30 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
16:35 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
16:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
17:25 London (RJ)
17:45 Cairo (RJ)
17:55 Frankfurt (RJ)
18:00 Vienna (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

16:45 Rome (AZ)
18:20 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
20:50 Vienna (RJ)
23:59 Bucharest (RO)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:15 Damascus (RJ)
08:00 Aqaba (RJ)
09:20 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:00 Vienna (RJ)
12:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:45 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
13:20 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:35 Frankfurt (RJ)
13:45 Cairo (RJ)
13:55 London (RJ)
16:45 Damascus, Larnaca (RJ)
16:50 Jeddah (RJ)
17:00 Aden (RJ)
17:15 Larnaca (RJ)
17:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
17:45 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

12:15 Larnaca, Vienna (OS)
17:00 Khartoum (SU)
17:45 Dubai (AZ)
07:00 Bucharest (RO)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 700 / 700
Banana 680 / 680
Banana (Mukammal) 620 / 620
Beans 520 / 520
Cabbage 150 / 80
Carrot 150 / 80
Cauliflower 200 / 150
Cucumbers (large) 200 / 150
Cucumbers (small) 230 / 150
Eggplant 280 / 200
Garlic 90 / 50
Grapefruit 170 / 90
Lemon 80
Mint 150 / 120
Onion (dry) 300 / 200
Onion (green) 350 / 250
Orange 250 / 160
Pepper (hot) 200 / 150
Pepper (sweet) 180 / 120
Potato 570 / 330
Tomato 320 / 200
Spinach



PRIME MINISTER Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker received at his office Monday Admiral Jacques Lamade, chief of staff of the French Armed Forces in the presence of the assistant chief of staff for administration of the Jordanian Armed Forces and French Ambassador to Jordan Denis Bauchard. Discussion at the

Arab airlines discuss expanding operations

AMMAN (Petra) — A regional meeting opened here Monday to discuss the prospect of expanding the operational capabilities of Arab airlines.

A spokesman for Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national carrier, which is hosting the meeting, said that the two-day discussion is intended to focus on the idea of enabling double jet-engine aircraft owned by Arab airlines to make trans-oceanic flights safely.

Attending the meetings are representatives of airlines in Saudi Arabia, Syria, Egypt, Kuwait, Sudan, Algeria, Libya, Lebanon, and the United Arab Emirates, in addition to Gulf Air.

The spokesman, Jihad Irshaid, RJ vice president of operations, said the meeting was organized by the Arab Air Carriers Association to help boost the operations of Arab airlines around the world.

RJ has already conducted this programme on its Airbus aircraft and was followed by Kuwaiti Airlines, Egypt Air and Gulf Air, said Capt. Irshaid.

He said questions related to training personnel and pilots, as well as maintenance of such aircraft will be discussed at the meetings, also attended by representatives of the American Boeing aircraft company.

Professional Arab women turn meeting into debate over veil

Challenge is to retain positive elements, while expanding opportunities — Queen Noor

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Veiled women at work was one of the subtly debated issues Monday at a high-level conference, grouping professional women from different parts of the Arab World.

The conference, which aimed mainly at reviewing problems encountered by leading professional women, turned into an intellectual discourse over veiled women occupying leading posts.

"In Gulf countries, men do not allow women to enter into the professional or educational domain unless they are veiled," explained Munira Fakhr, a university professor from Bahrain, at the first session of the Regional and National Conference of the Business and Professional Women's Federation (NFBPW) held at the Grand Forte Hotel.

Ms. Fakhr was reacting to a statement by Maysa Al Jamal, Monday's only lecturer, who said that although women took the veil off in the 1930s, they are re-wearing it now out of economic difficulties.

"Veiling women in Egypt: is it a religious costume or a traditional one or what?" Ms. Al Jamal, herself an Egyptian, questioned.

The simple comment apparently drew the attention and interest of the participants. Five out of around fifty participants at the conference were veiled. These came from Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. Several participants (veiled and unveiled) extensively defended the veil (Hijab) throughout the discussion hour.

"My presence here among you is one major proof," said Rajiha Mahmoud from Oman, who pointed out that wearing the veil did not stand in the way of occupying a leading post as a member of the board of directors at the Oman-Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Although the discussion period focused on the hijab issue, Ms. Al Jamal's lecture concentrated on the lack of studies and statistics on women in leading posts and the absence of women's unions.

The lecturer stressed the importance of carrying out in-depth research on professional women's basic and common problems, as well as obstacles they face throughout their career.

"Without knowing... we can't help," she said. "Who are they, (the leading women) what are the problems they face and how did they succeed?" she questioned repeatedly.

"We have to do away with rhetoric and get into the task of portraying the role of professional women... knowing what they want and what are they going through."

Participants at the three-day conference also highlighted the major impediments encountered by professional women; mainly lack of funding by different organisations for women's projects.

According to some participating experts, the lack of funding and lack of training diminish chances for women to open their own private businesses. Others said women are deprived of decision-making which poses another hindrance to their progress and development in their careers.

In commending the NFBPW's discussions on women's education, training and participation in professional and business fields, Her Majesty Queen Noor, who earlier chaired the opening ceremony of the Arab Woman and Sustainable Development Conference at the Royal Cultural Centre, said these discussions "constitute part of a broader, long-term global drive to enhance women's contributions to national development that is equitable, balanced and sustainable."

The Queen emphasised the importance of better recognising the role of women in the development process, in balance with their traditional role in the context of individual and family needs.



In her speech at the opening ceremony, Ms. Swan said, "It is a tremendous feeling to be among our Arab sisters here in Jordan. We now know the truth about Jordan and the Arab World. We will spread the light around the world," she added.

The Jordanian Minister of Information, Mahmoud Al Shai highlighted in his speech the significant steps Jordan has adopted recently in the path of democracy, and the importance of having free press.

"We have had one of the free elections in the history of a region," he said. "... it (Parliament) has passed a law on press and publication law which safeguards the freedom of press against any intrusion by government, and guarantees right of accessibility to all sources of information."

President of the National Federation of the Business and Professional Women, In'am Mufti, who is also director of Noor Al Hussein Foundation, emphasised in her speech the role of the media in raising the awareness of women and of forming favourable attitudes towards women's causes, "especially a world that has been transformed by virtue of the modern communication, revolution, international village."

Jordan to attend Vienna human rights conference

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — Jordan is sending a 12-member delegation of officials, parliamentarians, lawyers and human rights activists to the June 11-25 United Nations conference on human rights, the first such gathering in 25 years.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who is closely involved in the organising of the conference, might lead the Jordanian delegation, but the final decision on the issue is not taken yet, his office said.

Among the prominent Jordanians in the delegation are Upper House of Parliament member Laila Shara, several members of the Lower House, lawyer and former minister Taber Hikmat, columnist and international human rights activist Waleed Sadi and lawyer Asma Khader, a prominent member of the Jordan Chapter of Amnesty International.

The Vienna conference, convened in line with a resolution adopted by the U.N. General Assembly, is expected to be attended by all member states of the world body, including several heads of state. International experts and activists are drawing up an agenda for the gathering.

The meeting, is expected to focus on a global review of human rights, including political and civil rights. The U.N. held the last such conference in Tehran 25 years ago.

The record of various countries in adhering to the dozens of international charters and covenants on human rights will be reviewed, but it is doubtful the forum would devote any particular attention to calls for censure of governments with proven records of human rights violations, according to international experts and diplomats.

A close clash is expected between the developed countries and the developing world if the latter seeks to use the forum to advance their quest for international aid, they say.

"The developing countries would argue that their economic conditions do not permit them to extend any high significance to the international norms and practices," said an expert.

But, according to the expert, the developed countries could counter by pointing out that "respect for the basic political and civil rights of a people has little to do with economic backwardness."

"They could argue that one does not have to have a developed economy to ensure that detainees are not tortured," noted the expert. "Nor do economic difficulties justify the imposition of ridiculous laws and regulations in total disregard for basic human dignity."

As an example, the expert cited the case of some countries where a woman complaining of rape has to produce at least four male witnesses to support her charge before the authorities would accept the case. "What does economy have to do with it?" asked the expert.

The Arab group at the conference is expected to present complaints about Israel's arbitrary measures against the Palestinians living under its occupation.

The United States administration has said that the Palestinians could raise the issue in Vienna with a view to securing Israeli actions to improve the human rights situation in the occupied territories, but neither Washington nor the conference itself is likely to entertain any motion for condemning the Jewish state, diplomats say.

"The whole exercise is aimed at conducting a comprehensive review of the international human rights situation in all its perspectives, including the philosophy of respect of human rights," said a diplomat.

"Singing out and censuring countries is not on the agenda."

ties of respect for human rights," said an expert, who preferred anonymity.

"Obviously, the argument is that unless they could improve their own economies, they would continue to be too bogged down in their economic preoccupations and development priorities," said the expert.

But, according to the expert, the developed countries could counter by pointing out that "respect for the basic political and civil rights of a people has little to do with economic backwardness."

"They could argue that one does not have to have a developed economy to ensure that detainees are not tortured," noted the expert. "Nor do economic difficulties justify the imposition of ridiculous laws and regulations in total disregard for basic human dignity."

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"Singing out and censuring countries is not on the agenda."

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Sultan of Malaysia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable to Sultan Azlan Shah of Malaysia congratulating him on the anniversary of his assumption of constitutional powers. King Hussein wished the Malaysian sultan good health and happiness and the Malaysian people further progress and prosperity.

Cypriot transport team arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Cypriot Ministry of Transport Monday arrived in Amman on a several-day visit to Jordan. The delegation will meet with the secretary general of the Ministry of Transport and other ministry officials to discuss issues related to enhancing Jordanian-Cypriot relations in the field of transport.

Yeltsin

(Continued from page 1)

for Public Opinion and Market Research.

Mr. Yeltsin won approval of 63.8 per cent of people surveyed about the vote-of-confidence question, according to projections from the exit poll of 5,219 Russians.

A surprising 56 per cent of exit poll respondents supported his market reforms that have brought soaring prices, worsening living standards and plummeting industrial production.

"There were no clear winners or losers," Mr. Khasbulatov said during a closed meeting of the Supreme Soviet legislature's executive committee, spokesman Konstantin Zlobin said.

"This referendum has split society," he said, in remarks indicating that the bitter parliamentary battle with Mr. Yeltsin is anything but over. "This referendum is another stage on the road of weakening Russia's statehood."

Mr. Yeltsin rejected Mr. Khasbulatov's interpretation.

"The attempt by the Supreme Soviet leadership to disrupt the expression of the people's will under the pretext that the population is tired of politics, did not succeed. Efforts to discredit the people's will will not succeed," he said in a statement.

Another Yeltsin ally, Sergei Yushenkov, outlined the moves the president should take: "More active and concrete steps are required to adopt a new constitution, a new law on elections," Mr. Yushenkov told reporters. "More resolute actions are needed to implement a tougher financial policy, conduct privatisation, support science, culture and entrepreneurship."

Mr. Yeltsin said he had won a 59.2 per cent vote of confidence in his presidency in the first 79 of Russia's 88 regions to count results of the referendum.

Returns from these regions also showed that 53.61 per cent of voters answered "yes" to a second question on whether they backed Mr. Yeltsin's social and economic policies, the president's office said.

"It is already clear the outcome of the referendum gives the president the necessary legal basis

to... press for two things Russia needs: Early elections and a new constitution," Yeltsin adviser Gennadiy Burbulis told Russian Television.

"We expect fulfilment of the promises he (Yeltsin) made before the referendum," reformist Deputy Lev Ponomarev told a news conference. "The main thing is the new draft constitution."

Mr. Khasbulatov said the referendum had split society and weakened Russia. "Apart from this setback for the state, this referendum decides absolutely nothing," he said.

He bitterly attacked the pro-Yeltsin television and radio coverage, comparing the president's media aide Mikhail Poltoranin, to Hitler's propaganda chief Josef Goebbels.

"Society can no longer tolerate this terrorism of the news media," Mr. Khasbulatov said.

Mr. Poltoranin hit back with a fierce statement. "Having lost the referendum outright, the supporters of the old system have begun looking for scapegoats," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin's success reassured traders in world markets fearful of more turmoil in Russia had the result been less clearcut.

Germany said the vote meant new aid of \$43.4 billion from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial states could start flowing.

Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said his support was stronger than expected and matched Western hopes. France hailed the outcome as a victory for democratic reform.

The White House called the referendum results "very encouraging."

White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said President Bill Clinton was to call Mr. Yeltsin.

"Obviously the results coming out of Russia, they're preliminary but they're very encouraging," she said. "We'll wait to see the final results and I expect the president will talk to Yeltsin at some point."

Mr. Myers said Mr. Clinton plans to discuss his aid package for Russia in a meeting with some Democratic congressional leaders Tuesday.

AAU council to promote Palestinian universities

RAMTHA (Petra) — Executive President of Najah University in Nabulus on the Israeli occupied West Bank Bahjat Al Masri said here Monday that Palestinian universities are in financial difficulty because of the deteriorating economic situation in the occupied lands. The Universities are also facing a serious shortage in teaching staff since the Israeli authorities deported a large number of them, said Dr. Masri who was speaking following the conclusion of a two-day meeting of the Association of Arab Universities (AAU) Council held at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).

Mohammad Saggi, president of the Islamic University in Gaza, said that the AAU Council has decided to send a delegation to the Marj Al Zuhour area in southern Lebanon where Palestinians expelled by Israel have been stranded since December.

The whole exercise is aimed at conducting a comprehensive review of the international human rights situation in all its perspectives, including the philosophy of respect of human rights," said a diplomat.

"Singing out and censuring countries is not on the agenda."

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition entitled "The Legend of Petra II" by artist Suba Shoman at the National Gallery for Fine Arts.
- ★ Art exhibition by Samia Al Zaru and Adnan Yahya at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of ceramics by Margaret Tadros at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Dr. Laila Bustamji at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Jordanian artist Ahmad Nawash at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of sculptures by Syrian artist Aktham Abdul Hameed at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Syrian Artist Yousef Abdelke at Al Balka's Gallery, Al Fuhais city.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture, in Arabic, entitled "Modern German Literature in Arabic Translations" by Dr. Abdo Abboud, of the University of Homs, at 12.30 noon at the University of Jordan's Modern Language Centre.

FILM

- ★ German film entitled "Treffen in Travers" at the Goethe Institute at 8 p.m.

THANKS AND APPRECIATION

The president and the administrative staff of Al-Shou'leh Club for the Blind (formerly Friendship Club for the Blind) extend their thanks and great appreciation to

Mrs. Christina Afridi, President of Pakistan Women Association (P.W.A.),

the members of the association and all the members of the Pakistani Embassy in Amman, headed by His Excellency the Ambassador, for their kind initiative in holding a charity bazaar dedicated to the club.

They deeply evaluate the great efforts offered by Mrs. Afridi and the voluntary team who worked with her to ensure the success of the bazaar.

The bazaar was held under the patronage of H.R.H. Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid, honorary chairman of the club last Saturday.

Jordanian Chemical Society holds first conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Chemical Society (JCS) Wednesday held its first conference.

With the participation of a large number of specialists from Jordan and Iraq, the meetings will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Participants will review 22 research papers and listen to three main lectures by Jordanian and Iraqi researchers, in addition to joint research papers by American and Pakistani chemists, according to Mohammad Halaqia, JCS president.

Dr. Halaqia said the meeting entitled, "Chemistry in the Service of Development," is supported by the Ministry of Education, the University of Jordan and the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST). Delegates include several representatives of the industrial sector in Jordan, particularly those involved in the pharmaceutical industries and the potash and phosphate mining industries. Dr. Halaqia told the Jordan Times.

The effects of insecticides on mothers' milk and the utilisation of chemical substances in the manufacture of medicine among the main topics on agenda, he said.

Dr. Halaqia said some of papers deal with issues such teaching chemistry, tackling pure chemistry-based projects, the exploitation of the Dead minerals and new materials in the Arab petro-chemical industries.

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Rawdat al Maaref School & College (RAMS)

Proudly announces the establishment of a **FOUNDATION YEAR** in collaboration with the **NORTHERN CONSORTIUM OF TWELVE LEADING BRITISH UNIVERSITIES.**

The Purpose of this Foundation Year is to prepare Jordanians and students of other nationalities with a Tawjihi certificate or equivalent for enrollment in a three year British university degree programme (B.A or B.Sc.).

The Northern Consortium undertakes to ensure that all students who pass the Foundation Year are enrolled in a suitable degree programme.

(N.B. RAMS has boarding facilities for expatriates)

(For further information interested students should contact RAMS in person.)

RAMS is seeking to employ **QUALIFIED TEACHERS** for the GCE advanced level and Foundation Year courses in the following subjects:

- Communication Skills and Information Technology
- Pure and Applied Mathematics
- Physics.
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Accounting and Finance
- Social Studies

Candidates should have university degrees in the above mentioned fields and have excellent command of the English language.

Candidates for teaching positions are kindly requested to contact RAMS in person.

For Further Information, Please Contact the P.R. dept.
Tel - 828949/ 50/ 51/ 52 Amman Fax - 828954 - P.O.Box 676 Khaldi

In addition, the three women interviewed emphasised that the absence of political freedoms in the past and interference in and suppression of the women's movement are also contributing factors to the debilitated status of the women.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN - JORDAN
TELEPHONE: 590170 / 60270
ORGANIZED MARKET SECTOR PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 26/04/1993

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OFFERED PRICE	OPENING PRICE
ASIAN BANK	25,090	149.750	149.000	138.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	105,512	4.550	4.550	4.550
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	7,261	25.000	25.000	24.900
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	2,420	1.630	1.710	1.710
THE HOUSING BANK	135,948	4.120	4.120	4.150
JORDAN ZINDAT BANK	10,001	2.630	2.630	2.630
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	6,780	2.420	2.420	2.420
JORDAN ZINDAT BANK	19,535	2.750	2.750	2.840
BUSINESS BANK	328	4.440	4.440	4.440
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	11,517	3.300	3.300	3.280
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	8,925	5.900	5.950	5.950
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	28,772	5.610	5.600	5.620
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	69,917	1.650	1.640	1.670
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	2,420	2.450	2.450	2.500
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	22,201	1.710	1.680	1.680
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	3,945	2.630	2.630	2.650
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	779,944	4.130	2.920	3.920
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	10,121	5.550	5.550	5.550
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	4,253	2.950	2.950	2.910
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	14,056	2.250	2.250	2.450
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	2,145	3.200	3.200	3.200
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	10,121	6.820	6.820	6.950
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	10,121	5.770	5.770	5.830
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	113	2.250	2.250	2.250
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	2,774	0.450	0.450	0.450
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	49,589	4.070	4.100	4.100
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	28,948	1.750	1.750	1.750
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	49,589	0.750	0.800	0.800
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	4,950	1.770	1.800	1.840
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	1,905	1.240	1.240	1.340
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	24,320	2.280	2.280	2.280
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	2,801	2.960	2.960	2.960
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	158,962	1.940	1.980	1.980
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	9,219	10.620	10.580	10.580
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	49,589	0.750	0.800	0.800
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	248,180	7.000	6.960	6.970
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	49,589	0.750	0.800	0.800
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	105,252	9.400	9.670	9.660
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	49,589	0.750	0.800	0.800
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	447,922	6.200	6.200	7.040
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	2,801	2.960	2.960	2.960
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	97,790	22.350	22.350	22.350
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	14,056	2.250	2.250	2.300
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	10,121	5.550	5.550	5.550
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	24,320	2.280	2.280	2.280
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	14,056	12.600	12.600	12.600
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	11,517	3.300	3.300	3.300
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	21,798	2.150	2.140	2.130
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	2,145	3.200	3.200	3.200
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	1,544	0.570	0.600	0.540
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	100,268	8.150	8.130	8.130
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	104,187	2.820	2.820	2.820
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	17,480	5.400	5.400	5.370
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	104,187	2.820	2.820	2.820
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	13,254	1.280	1.270	1.290
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	24,320	2.280	2.280	2.280
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	54,845	1.000	0.950	0.950
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	376,748	11.400	11.400	11.100
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	104,187	2.820	2.820	2.820
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	71,418	4.200	4.200	4.200
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	104,187	2.820	2.820	2.820
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	223,777	5.350	5.350	5.350

GRAND TOTAL 4,834,113

Growth in Asia to remain world's fastest

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Asian economies grew by almost eight per cent in 1992, partly thanks to a steep rise in China's growth rate, and the region will remain the world's fastest-growing this year, the IMF said Monday.

Asian economies grew 7.9 per cent in 1992, against overall world economic growth of just 1.8 per cent, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in its World Economic Outlook report.

A dramatic rise in China's growth rate in 1992, owing to strong increases in fixed investment, contributed to a substantial increase in regional trade and growth, the report said.

China's economy grew 12.8 per cent in 1992, and it is expected to be Asia's fastest-growing economy again this year, with gross domestic product growth of 8.5 per cent.

The share of China's exports going to other Asian countries rose from 39 per cent in 1985 to 57 per cent in 1991, and liberalisation of the trade and exchange systems in 1991 and foreign exchange liberalisation in 1992 helped China's economy.

But the report warned that the boost in economic activity to 1991-92 "has led to a renewed risk of overheating that, if not contained, could lead to macroeconomic instability and could jeopardise the reform process."

The report paid tribute to sound financial policies and structural reforms in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan, which had "also contributed to the robust performance of the region."

"Economic conditions remain buoyant in the fastest-growing economies, but concerns about capacity constraints and over-heating may require policies of financial restraint in several countries," the report added.

Thailand is expected to see its economy grow by 7.8 per cent this year after 7.5 per cent in 1992, the sharpest growth in the region after China, followed by Taiwan with 6.9 per cent, up from 6.4 per cent in 1992.

The slowest growth in 1993 in Asia will be in the Philippines at 3.1 per cent, but this is a marked improvement over the 0.3 per cent negative growth of 1992.

India's growth rate will rise to 4.6 per cent this year from 4.0 per cent in 1992, while that of Pakistan will fall to 4.9 per cent from 5.8 in 1992.

South Korea's growth rate is forecast to rise to 6.0 per cent from 4.7 per cent in 1992.

IMF: World recovery hesitant

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The world economic recovery is weaker than expected, and growth could remain sluggish for some time, particularly if countries fail to reach a global trade agreement, the IMF said in a report released Monday.

The International Monetary Fund revised downwards its growth forecasts for the world economy for 1993, and warned that even these figures may have to be reviewed if progress is not made in restructuring economies and curbing protectionism.

"The recovery of global economic activity after the 1991 downturn remains hesitant and uneven," the IMF said in its semi-annual World Economic Outlook report.

It is now predicting world economic growth of 2.2 per cent for 1993, and 3.4 per cent in 1994, after forecasting 1993 growth of 3.1 per cent to the last report in October, but warned that "the outlook remains unusually uncertain."

"Notwithstanding the continued economic difficulties in

many countries, recent positive developments offer hope for a cooperative growth strategy in the near term which could also permit a strengthening of global economic performance over the medium term," the IMF said.

But "to be successful, it is vital that these efforts are supported by an immediate conclusion of the Uruguay Round" of international trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the report added.

"A failure to complete the round would deprive the world of the benefits of further liberalisation and would risk aggravating protectionist pressures, which would seriously harm all countries," it noted.

The industrial countries are forecast to show 1.7 per cent growth this year, against an earlier forecast of 2.9 per cent, and 2.9 per cent in 1994.

The U.S. economy is forecast to grow 3.2 per cent this year and by the same amount in 1994, with "the most pressing priority of economic policy... the need to

reduce the large federal budget deficit and to strengthen saving and investment."

The report noted that the economic plan unveiled by President Bill Clinton in February, while a "considerable effort," would leave the country with a deficit of three per cent of gross domestic product in fiscal 1998 — the same level as in the late 1980s.

Japan will see growth of only 1.3 per cent this year, against a January forecast of 2.5 per cent and 3.75 per cent in October, partly the result of adjustments following recent correction of inflated asset prices. Japanese growth for 1994 is forecast at 3.5 per cent.

European Community growth is forecast at 0.1 per cent in 1993, partly as a result of turbulence on the stock market.

In some former communist countries the economies were bottoming out, but "in the Russian Federation and most other countries of the former Soviet Union, economic conditions are of particular concern because of inadequate attention to macroeconomic stabilisation and because of political unrest and armed

conflicts in many regions."

Among positive signs for the overall world economy, the report cited success in developing countries, early signs of recovery in former communist countries, easing exchange rate tensions and falling interest rates in Europe and the economic stimulus package recently unveiled in Japan.

But it warned that if governments, particularly in the industrialised countries, do not continue with necessary structural reforms to liberalise the financial, trade, agriculture and labour markets, the world economy might not achieve the revised growth figures now being forecast.

"Although there is also the potential for growth to be stronger than projected, the policy implications are clearly more serious if growth turns out to be significantly weaker than in the baseline," the report said.

"The downside risks, if realised, would tend to delay the projected upturn in economic activity, especially in Japan and Europe," the report pointed out.

Moulinex reports \$21m loss

PARIS (AFP) — The French household electrical goods firm Moulinex, Europe's leading producer of microwave ovens, lost 115 million francs (\$21.14 million) in 1992 but hopes to achieve "high profitability within two or three years," management said in a statement Monday.

The loss during the first 12 months of the exceptional 15-month fiscal 1992-93 was due primarily to "stagnation and even recession in the market and to the recent acquisition of the Krups company," the statement said.

Compared with a profit of 191 million francs in 1991, the company was trading in a "very unfavourable economic conjuncture," management said, pointing to a 0.9 per cent increase in consolidated sales of 8.218 billion francs at constant exchange rate.

Fluctuations in exchange rates meant that consolidated sales ended 1.66 per cent down at 8,357 billion francs.

The operating result for 1992, at 235 million francs, was down by more than half on the 1991 figure of 499 million francs.

The company is currently in talks with banks with a view to increasing its share capital.

The company, which produces the Moulinex, Krups, Shan and Girhi brands, operates with 13,700 employees, including 8,500 in France.

Rouble seen hitting new lows

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's uncertain political outlook after Sunday's vote of confidence in President Boris Yeltsin will hit the rouble further and the economy will continue to drift into inflation, bankers said Monday.

Russian commercial bankers forecast the rouble would dip to between 950 and 1,000 to the dollar by the end of May from 795 last week, a fall of as much as 26 per cent.

The bankers expect no economic recovery despite the outcome of the referendum, in which Mr. Yeltsin appeared to be winning a mandate to force through political reforms.

They said the rouble would come under renewed pressure from pre-referendum budget handouts by the government, including promised subsidies to industry and agriculture, and the likelihood of early presidential and parliamentary polls.

Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi told Reuters in an interview: "The economic situation will be catastrophic by October. The dollar will go beyond 1,000 roubles."

"This is a full-scale crisis of the national currency," Mr. Rutskoi, an opponent of Mr. Yeltsin's reforms, added.

Mr. Yeltsin said before the vote that he would issue targets for monetary and credit policy to combat inflation.

"The referendum won't bring any change but higher inflation. We'll see more falls in the rouble," said Dmitry Kochkin, deputy foreign relations head at the commercial Industria-Servis Bank.

"Our economic situation has always been hard to predict but I can say things will get worse," said Andrei Vedeneyev, deputy head of foreign exchange at Mosfinbank, another one of Russia's 1,600 commercial banks.

Efforts to slow down monetary growth to curb inflation face strong opposition from Russia's free-spending central bank, which is controlled by a conserva-

tive parliament anxious to index wages and pensions to inflation.

Government economists expect cash in circulation to jump by 20 per cent in March on increased budgetary pressure from the farming sector, which relies heavily on credits to fund the spring sowing season.

"Russian farmers have no money to buy seeds, fertilisers, machinery... suddenly the economy will have to pay for all these goods," said a senior Western economist in Moscow.

Russia does not have developed capital and money markets to soak up the rapidly expanding money supply. Interest rates are way below monthly inflation running at 21 per cent for March.

The rouble has already lost 90 per cent of its value against the dollar since the start of the year on fears of continued inflation, which totalled 2,623 per cent in 1992.

It last traded at 795 to the dollar Thursday on the tiny Mos-

cow Interbank Currency Exchange (MICEX), down from 779 a week earlier. The MICEX rate, used as a benchmark by the Russian Central Bank, is still well below the unofficial rate at exchange booths in the Russian capital which offer up to 830 roubles to the dollar. Rates outside Moscow are even higher.

Bankers, citing expected high inflation, question the central bank's medium-term ability to support the rouble in the absence of Western aid to boost Russia's foreign currency reserves, put at \$2 billion by government officials.

The Group of Seven leading industrial nations this month promised Russia \$43 billion in aid to help Mr. Yeltsin's drive to transform the economy, but they are still concerned the money committed might be wasted if Russian reform efforts stall.

The aid package includes a \$2 billion to \$3 billion fund to support the rouble, which is not convertible on world markets.

It last traded at 795 to the dollar Thursday on the tiny Mos-

East European nations seek Western market access

TOKYO (R) — Former Soviet Bloc countries voiced fears Sunday that trade protectionism could deny their exports vital access to Western markets.

But Western European officials said recession made it difficult to give unlimited entry to goods from an east Europe switching from communist-style command economy to free-market democracy.

"For a country like the Czech republic, it is extremely important, at this stage of transformation and in the future, to have free access to markets in the West because we are an extremely trade-dependent country and we believe in free trade," Karel Dyba, Czech minister of economy told a news conference.

Mr. Dyba was one of eight representatives from central and eastern European nations and Russia who attended a two-day conference with representatives of the West's Group of Seven (G-7)

industrial states and the European Community on free-market reforms.

Bela Kadar, Hungary's minister of international economic relations, voiced the same concern at the news conference.

"In the recent past, certain undesirable patterns have started to emerge... the recession in the West has affected adversely the dynamics of trade relations. There are some narrow protectionist trends in some Western countries even if they are not reflected at the level of government policy," he said.

Western participants agreed improved access to their markets was vital for the success of economic reform but cautioned that providing it would not be easy.

"Of course they want to have maximum access," Neil Hamilton, Britain's minister for corporate affairs in the Department of Trade and Industry told Reuters

after the news conference.

"It will be a real challenge for G-7 countries, particularly those in a state of recession, to determine how far it is politically acceptable in certain sectors," he said.

"(But) everybody knows how important it is for reforming economies to progress and ultimately there is a huge market for us in these countries," Mr. Hamilton added.

Andrei Shapovalov, first deputy minister in the Russian Federation's ministry of economy, told the news conference that Sunday's referendum on President Boris Yeltsin's position would not affect Russia's planned economic reforms.

"Regardless of the outcome of the referendum... we intend to proceed with what we began in 1992 — continued privatisation, the creation of proper frameworks, ensuring social safety nets," he said.

He urged that foreign investment in his country be aimed not only at traditional sectors such as logging and oil and gas extraction, but in new high-technology areas in which Russia hopes it will be globally competitive in the future. "High tech industries are going to be the order of the day," he said.

Western delegates urged the reforming nations to tackle obstacles to investment. Germany's Gunter Rexrodt, federal minister of economic affairs, told the news conference.

Financial Markets

in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 23/4/93	Tokyo Close Date 26/4/93
Sterling Pound	1.5745	1.5739
Deutsche Mark	1.5837	1.5739
Swiss Franc	1.4285	1.4260
French Franc	5.3480	5.3065 **
Japanese Yen	110.73	110.55
European Currency Unit	1.2320	1.2417 **

* USD Per STG ** European Opening of 2nd Term GMT

European Interest Rates Date: 26/4/1993

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.12	3.18	3.43
Sterling Pound	5.81	5.87	5.93	6.06
Deutsche Mark	7.87	7.68	7.37	6.75
Swiss Franc	5.06	4.87	4.62	4.44
French Franc	8.50	8.12	7.75	7.37
Japanese Yen	3.18	3.18	3.21	3.21
European Currency Unit	8.62	8.50	8.25	7.75

Interbank bid rates for accounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 26/4/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6810	0.6830
Sterling Pound	1.0762	1.0816
Deutsche Mark	0.4321	0.4343
Swiss Franc	0.4773	0.4797
French Franc	0.1280	0.1286
Japanese Yen	0.6168	0.6199
Dutch Guilder	0.3845	0.3864
Swedish Krona	0.0942	0.0947
Italian Lira	0.0459	0.0461
Belgian Franc	0.02086	0.02096

Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 26/4/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7850	1.8200
Lebanese Lira	0.03836	0.04000
Saudi Riyal	0.1813	0.1824
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2240	2.2740
Qatari Riyal	0.1843	0.1860
Egyptian Pound	0.1950	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7350	1.7670
UAE Dirham	0.1843	0.1860
Greek Drachma	0.3138	0.3438
Cypriot Pound	1.4300	1.4600

Davis Cup Singapore, S. Arabia promoted to Group 2

DOHA (Agencies) — Singapore and Saudi Arabia won the qualifying places from the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania zone Group three tournament which finished Sunday.

Singapore beat the United Arab Emirates 2-1 and Saudi Arabia beat Syria by the same score in their final matches. Lebanon was third in the group which also involved Bahrain, Bangladesh and Qatar.

Saudi Arabia got off to a flying start against second from bottom Syria, as Badar Al Megayel beat Shafeek Diah 6-3, 6-3.

But Syria made a fight of it when Kahtan Malki came from behind to defeat Othman Al Enezi in three sets.

Megayel and Enezi then found themselves down in the doubles to Ahmad Diah and Shafeek Diah before clinching victory 4-6, 7-5, 6-2.

Singapore also had to stage a recovery operation against the United Arab Emirates, who were third in the eight-nation table at the start of the day and had an outside chance of qualifying themselves.

Manual Gayon them a perfect start beating Singapore's Mark Choy 6-1, 7-6 (7-5).

Chee Yen Chen then levelled the tie comfortably defeating Salem Dasmal 6-1, 6-1.

Chen and Wei Pin Choo then clinched a three set doubles to book their place in Group 2 next year.

Qatar finished at the bottom after going down 0-3 to Bahrain.

First round of NBA playoffs gets underway Thursday

By Chris Sheridan
The Associated Press

SUNDAY WAS SUPPOSED to be a day that mattered, a season-ending day featuring nationally televised games with playoff implications — Chicago Vs. New York for the best record in the east, Detroit Vs. New Jersey for the final spot in the east.

It turned into the exact opposite — a day of nine almost meaningless games, none with any influence on the opening round of the playoffs.

The playoff picture, at least what was left of it, came into full focus Saturday night. Indiana beat Miami to clinch to final Eastern berth, and Charlotte, New Jersey and Atlanta all learned their playoff seedings before midnight.

All the Western Conference seedings were determined by Friday night. The first round of the playoff gets underway Thursday night, and the action doesn't let up at least until mid-June. Here's a look ahead at the opening-round series, and how the teams did against each other in the regular season.

Eastern Conference

The Knicks have the best conference record and it looks like they'll make it to the second round fairly easily.

New York won the season series with Indiana three games to one, getting double-figure scoring from five players in each game. Patrick Ewing has a distinct advantage over Indiana centre Rik Smits and the Pacers just don't have the bulk to match up with New York's front line.

The big matchup in this series is between Michael Jordan and Dominique Wilkins, the top two scorers in the league. Wilkins outscored Jordan 34.8 to 32.8 in the teams' four matchups, but each team won two games. The key in the playoffs will be depth, and Chicago has the advantage in that area.

"You have to contain 'Nique, not let him get his 30, and keep Kevin Willis off the boards," Bulls forward Horace Grant said. "They're not a one-man show anymore."

In a matchup of two teams that ended the season going in opposite directions, Cleveland seems to have the advantage. The Cavaliers won 11 of their last 12, while the Nets lost 10 of their final 11 and have lost Kenny Anderson, Drazen Petrovic and Chris Dudley to injuries.

The season series was a 2-2 split, with no game decided by more than six points. A big factor in this series will be the injury to Anderson, which could allow Cavaliers point guard Mark Price to

dominate backup Rumeal Robinson.

"Just two weeks ago we were hoping to get into the playoffs. Now we're hoping to make some noise," Hornets coach Allan Bristow said.

Charlotte could do just that if it can carry the momentum from a five-game, season-ending winning streak into the playoffs. Boston won the season series three games to one, but the first three games were played in the season's first 60 days.

Western Conference

This series shapes up as possibly the biggest mismatch of the playoffs. The Suns finished 43 games over .500, the Lakers were four games below. Phoenix has been waiting all year for a chance to prove its regular-season dominance was no fluke, the Lakers had to fight all season to qualify for the eighth playoff berth for a second straight year.

Phoenix swept the season series 5-0, winning by 10, 16, 28, 15 and 1.

The Trail Blazers have dropped six wins from last year, when they went to the NBA finals and lost to Chicago, and Clyde Drexler has been slowed all year by hamstring problems. The Spurs, meanwhile, made one of the NBA's best turnarounds following the early-season firing of Jerry Tarkanian.

This season series was also a split, each team winning two games. This playoff series could turn out to be one of the best.

The Rockets swept the season series four games to none, with Hakeem Olajuwon posting a double-double in each game to average 21.3 points and 12.3 rebounds.

Not including its Sunday night game with San Antonio, Houston won 11 of its last 12 and 28 of its last 33 and has played extremely well since the season's midpoint. The Clippers (41-41) finished at .500 to qualify for the second straight year, but they will have plenty of trouble against a bigger, more talented opponent.

Once again it's a matchup of two teams heading in opposite directions. The SuperSonics finished at 55-27, an eight-win improvement over 1991-92. The Jazz went in the exact opposite direction, dropping eight wins from its 55-27 record of last season.

The season series was tied 2-2, with no game decided by more than 11 points. Seattle will try to benefit from the midseason acquisition of playoff veteran Sam Perkins while Utah will look to overcome its longstanding postseason problems (three wins in one playoff series).



JORDAN SIXTH IN ASIAN BASKETBALL: Jordan's U-22 national basketball team settled for 6th place in the Asian Youth Basketball Championship in Hong Kong, after its 51-49 loss to Indonesia. Jordan had beat Malaysia 60-45 in the first round but later lost the chance to qualify for the semifinal round when they surprisingly lost 75-65 to Japan. Jordan later beat Hong Kong 68-48. Taipei won the title after overcoming South Korea 80-77, while Japan finished third after scoring an 88-79 win over the Philippines.

Van Basten fails to ease Milan crisis

PARIS (AFP) — Italian champions AC Milan took another step toward turning a drama into a crisis by failing to win for the sixth straight league game Sunday.

Their goalless draw at lowly Udinese let neighbours Internazionale, who beat Ancona 3-0, get within four points and set up an exciting climax to the Serie A with five matches to play.

AC Milan were without Ruud Geulit and Frank Rijkaard but welcomed back third Dutchman Marco van Basten in the second half for his first appearance since last Dec. 13.

Van Basten, who has been recovering from an ankle operation, showed a few deft touches. But Fabio Capello's team still suffered from start to finish of the game in front of 40,000 fans — nearly all of whom were urging a new upset for the European Championship Cup finalists.

Milan had a record 58-game unbeaten run ended by Parma on March 21 and have not won since. Their lead has been cut from 11 points a month ago and Inter have never had such high hopes of overtaking their once-invincible neighbours in the San Siro Stadium.

Inter, who are in turn unbeaten

in 13 games, had Uruguayan striker Ruben Sosa, who scored twice, to thank for their win over relegated Ancona.

UEFA Cup finalists Juventus strengthened their revival with a 3-0 win over Fiorentina and Roberto Baggio was again on target, this time from a last minute penalty.

In recent weeks, Baggio has scored three goals in the UEFA Cup semi-final games against Paris St. Germain, one of Italy's goals in the 2-0 win over Estonia and another in Juventus's 3-1 win over AC Milan last weekend.

Cup Winners Cup finalists Parma are third with Juventus 10 points after beating AS Roma 3-1. Marco Osio scored twice in that game.

Lazio are also joint third on 34 points — five behind Inter — after Giuseppe Signori also got a last gasp penalty that took the Serie A's leading scorer's tally to 23.

In Belgium, where Anderlecht long ago secured the title, Seraing won the second division title to earn promotion.

The French and Spanish championships were given a weekend off as their national sides prepared for World Cup qualifiers Wednesday.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1993.

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Moon square Mercury and Uranus oppositions to Neptune and Uranus won't provide you with the chances to get into the modern swim of things so hold on to those conservative routines. Be streamlined.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You now find you want to be off to new scenes and new personalities, but it is a day when satisfactory results would not follow in the long run.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your hunches are most inaccurate today and you would also be wise in doublecheck your judgment and make sure you understand conditions perfectly.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You find the outside world a pretty difficult and unsatisfactory place to be today so don't contact anyone who is apt to be in a bad humor.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You find whatever activities you had planned to engage in today can have elements you had not anticipated so be prepared to change your thinking.

LEO: (July 22 August 21) This is not the day to commit yourself to any entertainment of amusements that are expensive or that have an element of risk associated with them.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A day that you make every effort to have perfect control at

your own dwelling place as all kinds of tests for you to manifest patience arises.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) It is a day when special care needs to be used to guard against accidents or troubles on the highway or at anytime you are in motion in anyway.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A day when you are apt to feel you have a lack of the good things of life that mean much to you but don't allow yourself to get depressed.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are apt in stew and fuss over conditions about which you can do little or nothing about and this interferes with your present productivity.

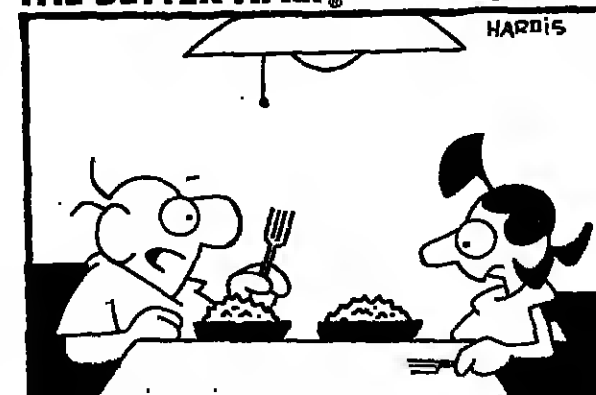
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Avoid working on a course of action to make you more prosperous in the future and get whatever restrictions that need to be eliminated by your efforts.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Friends and acquaintances could be a real disappointment to you today and tonight if you expect much of them so go more on your own steam, ideas.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Try to steer clear of matters of a public or worldly nature and persons who are influential for they are not likely to be helpful to you this day.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I thought I was supposed to serve it frozen. It's iceberg lettuce."

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Brian Clough steps down at Nottingham Forest

NOTTINGHAM (AP) — Brian Clough, who won two European Cup titles and numerous accolades in 18 years as manager of Nottingham Forest, is retiring at the end of the season. Forest chairman Fred Reacher announced Monday that Clough would stay at the helm for the team's two remaining games. Pressure on Clough to step down has mounted in recent weeks. Forest, next-to-last in the 22-team Premier League, is trying to stave off England's top soccer division for the first time since 1977.

Hunting Hawk takes Prix Greffulhe

PARIS (R) — Hunting Hawk, owned by Sheikh Mohammed and trained by the all-conquering Andre Fabre, ran out a fine winner of the Prix Greffulhe at Longchamp Sunday. Ridden by French champion Thierry Jarnet, Hunting Hawk beat Bigstone by a length and a half with stablemate Talloires a similar distance back in third. An unlucky loser of the Prix de Courcelles at the same track three weeks ago, Hunting Hawk made no mistake this time, getting into his stride quicker despite the extremely soft ground.

Korda, Lendl, Stich top three in Munich Open

MUNICH (AP) — Peter Korda, Ivan Lendl and Michael Stich are the top three seeds respectively for the \$300,000 BMW Open tennis tournament that starts in Munich Monday. Andre Medvedev of the Ukraine plays Cedric Pioline. Other notables in the

tournament include Andrei Cherkasov of Russia, Karel Novacek of the Czech Republic, Thomas Muster of Austria, and clay specialist Guillermo Perez-Roldan of Argentina. Germany's 22-year-old Marc Goellner, who upset Perez-Roldan, world No. 2 Stefan Edberg and Lendl on his way to a surprise win at the Nice Open a week ago, is also to play in Munich.

Bulgaria suffers first boxing fatality

SOFIA (R) — An 18-year-old amateur lightweight died at the National Junior Championships in Bulgaria's first boxing fatality, sports officials said Monday. The championships were postponed for two weeks after Alexander Kostadinov, who was wearing a protective headguard, collapsed Sunday and died in hospital. The death came only weeks before the Amateur World Championships start in Tampere, Finland, May 7. Doctors said the boxer died from two brain haemorrhages but were waiting for the results of an autopsy.

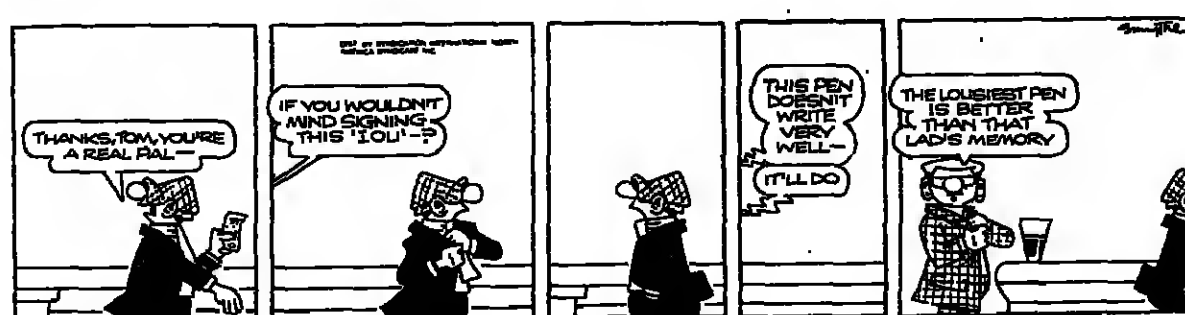
Schuster heading home

BONN (AFP) — Germany's Bernd Schuster is set to rejoin his home town club Bayer Leverkusen after twelve years playing in Spain for Barcelona, Real Madrid, and Atletico Madrid. Schuster, 33, who won 21 caps for Germany before retiring from international football in 1986, has just broken his contract with Atletico Madrid. The midfielder star hopes to complete the move Tuesday.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMARA HIRSCH

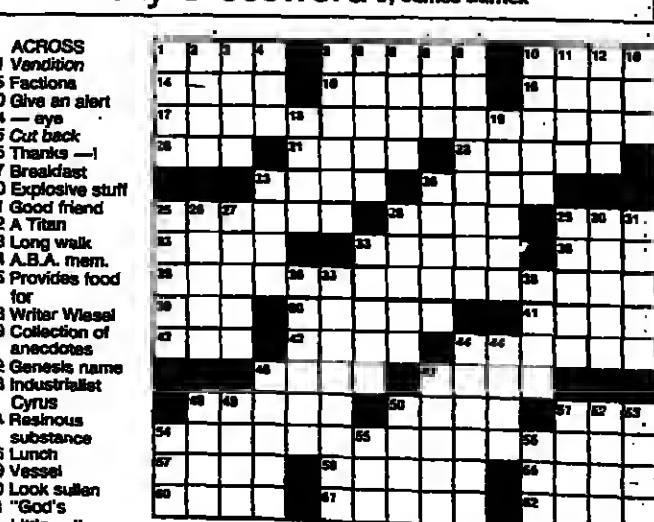
WHERE ARE THE TRICKS?

Neither vulnerable. North deals.
NORTH:
♠ K 7 4
♥ J 7 3
♦ A K Q J 9
♣ K 6
WEST:
♠ 8 6
♥ A K 9 8 5
♦ 10 6 2
♣ 8 7 3 2
EAST:
♠ A Q 2
♥ 10 6 2
♦ 8 5 4 3
♣ J 9 5
SOUTH:
♠ J 10 9 8 5 3
♥ Q 4
♦ Q 7
♣ A Q 10 4

The bidding:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♣
"Ah, Hastings, now am I, it is a sad day when they try to fool me and get away with murder by concealment!" This was not a case involving mayhem that had occasioned such an outburst from the great Belgian detective, Hercule Poirot, but rather an incident at the bridge club.
Their opponents had arrived at four spades on a direct auction after North had opened the bidding with one no trump, and Poirot had attacked with the king of hearts, to which Hastings had correctly fol-

lowed with the deuce. Declarer dropped the queen!
"Of course, I realized from the outset that you would have contributed the two of hearts even had you held four cards in the suit—you know that I cannot abide count signals at trick one and insist that we show attitude: whether we want a continuation or not. Therefore, I realized that declarer's card could have been honest."
"As usual at such times, I put those little gray cells to work. Let's suppose that you held the ace-queen of clubs. Even if we could collect two club tricks, that would not be enough to defeat the contract. Declarer would then have been marked with the ace of spades and, at best, we would have to hope for an unexpected trump trick—unless, of course, we had a second heart trick coming and declarer was trying to take me in."
"Once that was clear, it was a simple matter to continue with the ace of hearts at trick two. Notice that, had I shifted to a minor suit, declarer would have wrapped up 10 tricks with ease. As it was, down one was all he deserved for trying to, how you say, stretch the wool over my eyes."

THE Daily Crossword by James Barrick



ACROSS
1 Vandalism
5 Fraction
10 Give an alert
14 — eyes
15 Out back
16 Thanks —
17 Breakfast
20 Explosive stuff
21 Good friend
22 A Titan
23 Long walk
24 A.B.A. mem.
25 Provides food for
28 Writer Whelan
29 Collection of anecdotes
32 Genesis name
33 Industrialist
34 Cyprus
35 Reticent substance
38 Lunch
39 Vessel
40 Look sullen
41 "God's" little —
42 Matched collection
43 Dye stuff
44 Made pulpy
46 Org.'s cousin
47 Abruptly
48 Stroke of luck
50 Steer clear of
51 Bookie expert
54 Dinner
57 Holy Roman emperor
58 Tossup
59 "Bus Stop" playwright
60 Skap occupants
61 Goodies
62 Hit
DOWN
1 Party
2 Bristol's county
3 Ride
4 Phile
5 Delivers an address
6 Teard-off
7 Desert feature
8 Terminus
9 A tranquilizing
10 In a feeble way
11 Inter
12 Perot
13 Extreme degree
14 Arab blwig
15 Go to
16 Fiber plant
17 24 Communism table
18 — bell
19 Worship
20 Frame for a canvas
21 Juvenile heroine
22 Mother-of-pearl
23 Hurt
24 Dickens —
25 Dried
26 Baked —
27 Bakery
28 Hospital area
29 Showed displeasure
30 Skelatal part
31 Leprosy
32 Elected
33 Honor with a party
34 Buzzer
35 Dunge cap shape
36 Pins
37 On the water
38 Crowd
39 Buzzing insect
40 Actor Conway

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



Palestinians head for bilaterals

(Continued from page 1)

approval for the return of about 30 Palestinians expelled since the 1967 Middle East war as part of "a package of concessions" to the Palestinians.

He refused to disclose details of the expected concessions, but said that "some of those will have to be negotiated on while others are already approved and should be executed immediately at the start of the talks."

On the 30 exiles, he said they would be the first batch in a phased release of all Palestinians expelled from the occupied territories between 1967 and 1993.

Saeed Erakat, deputy chief of the Palestinian delegation, said the number of those expelled was 2,119, including the 396 Palestinian expellees in South Lebanon.

"This is under an agreement reached with Israel through the American side to reschedule the return of all Palestinian deportees since June 1967 and until the present day," Dr. Erakat told the Associated Press.

"All those Palestinians should be in their homes in the occupied

territories within eight months," he added.

Mr. Hussein will take part for the first time in the negotiations since the peace talks were launched in October 1991.

Israel had barred him from the negotiating table amid fears that the status of "annexed" Arab East Jerusalem, where he lives, will be open for negotiations.

"I will attend certain sessions as part of the negotiating team led by Haidar Abdul Shafi and will also attend multilateral sessions," he said.

Hardline Palestinian groups have condemned the Palestinian decision to return to peace talks with Israel and called for a general strike in the West Bank and Gaza Tuesday.

An alliance of 10 groups said in a statement on Monday the peace talks were a threat to the Palestinian cause and to the uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories and vowed to continue attempts to stop them.

"The Palestinian decision to join the next round of talks constitutes a threat to our national rights, the uprising and the unity of our people," the statement

said.

It said leaders of the 10 groups had met and agreed to call a general strike in the West Bank and Gaza Tuesday.

They said they held the Palestinian negotiators and the PLO leadership responsible for "any negative consequences resulting from their participation in the peace talks."

"Those people constitute only a minority of the Palestinians. They do not represent us and any decision they make is not binding," the statement said.

They also called on the families of the Palestinian expellees in South Lebanon to hold rallies outside the homes of Palestinian negotiators to protest at their participation in the talks.

Among the 10 were two of the

main components of the PLO, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, as well as the fundamentalist Hamas and Islamic Jihad organisations and pro-Syrian groups based in Damascus.

But Mr. Arafat warned in a message broadcast to rallies in Gaza Saturday and Sunday: "Those who are not on the political map today will not be on the geographical map tomorrow."

"We are going to the talks and keeping the heat on our enemies at the same time," the PLO leader said.

"When the day comes we will hoist the Palestinian flag on the mosques and churches of Jerusalem," Mr. Arafat said.

Israel

(Continued from page 1)

that the United States would be a "full partner" in the talks, but declined to explain exactly what that meant.

Several factors have pushed Washington to become more active: first, Mr. Clinton, finishing a difficult first 100 days in office, would undoubtedly like a foreign policy success, especially given the U.N.'s failure to stop the grim tragedy ripping apart Bosnia.

Washington also fears that increased violence in Israel and the occupied territories makes it more difficult to negotiate a solution to the fighting.

OIC takes tough step on Bosnia

(Continued from page 1)

aggression on the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and demanded that the world community lift the arms embargo on Bosnia.

"The ongoing genocide launched by the Serbian forces in violation of all international rules and the continuous ethnic cleansing practices committed against the Muslim people reflect the world community's double standard dealings with world issues," Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber said.

The minister described as barbaric and inhuman the Serbian attacks on the "innocent civilians, including women, children and old people in violation of all

international norms."

"The tragedy in Bosnia-Herzegovina represents an open challenge to the world community, which should end the conflict and halt the Serbian onslaught lest it would engulf the whole Balkan states," Dr. Abu Jaber said.

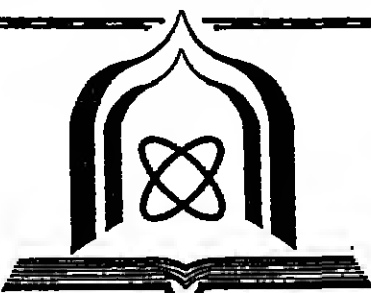
Turning to the Middle East region, Dr. Abu Jaber voiced Jordan's call for serious international efforts to ban testing and stockpiling nuclear and other mass destruction weapons. "We demand that the Middle East region remain free of all nuclear, chemical and biological weapons," he said.

In this respect Israel should be forced to sign the nuclear Non-

Proliferation Treaty and must be made to accept inspection of its installations by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), he said. Otherwise the Jewish state would continue to form a source of real threat to world security, he said.

Expressing hope that the Arab-Israeli peace talks which resume Tuesday would achieve concrete results, the minister said that Jordan had been striving to attain a lasting and peaceful settlement to the conflict and the Palestine problem.

Reiterating the Kingdom's total commitment to U.N. Security Council resolution 242 and 338, Dr. Abu Jaber said that the talks should result in the exchange of land for peace, the repatriation of the expellees and the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights.



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Bosnian Serbs reject peace plan, stiffer sanctions loom

BIJELJINA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — The Bosnian Serb assembly voted unanimously Monday to rebuff an appeal by their Yugoslav patrons to accept a U.N.-sponsored peace plan, setting the stage for stiffer anti-Serb sanctions.

Apparently unfazed by the threat of sanctions, the self-appointed parliament voted 77-0 against a peace plan that was signed by rival Muslims and Croats.

The new international sanctions, set to take effect Tuesday morning, include freezing Yugoslav public and private funds in overseas banks; prohibiting Yugoslav ships from U.N. members' territory; detaining ships, trains and aircraft already abroad; and blocking Yugoslav goods on the vital Danube River.

In Moscow, Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev of Russia, a traditional Serbian ally, said his nation now supported the anti-Yugoslav measures.

Looming alongside the sanctions remains possible Western military action.

Under the peace plan, proposed by EC mediator David Owen and U.N. negotiator Cyrus Vance, Bosnian Serbs would have to give up more than one-fifth of the 70 per cent of Bosnia Herzegovina that they now hold.

They would also have to accept living in a multi-ethnic Bosnia in which each of the warring factions — the Serbs, Croats and Muslims — would be given control of three provinces and share the administration of Bosnia's capital, Sarajevo.

The assembly announced it would ask Bosnian Serbs in a May 15-16 referendum to vote for a "final word" on the plan.

"We... will continue the fight until the end," the assembly said in a proclamation to end the all-night emergency session.

The assembly's vote came a day after the European Community (EC) 12 foreign ministers backed off a proposal to use military force to end the carnage in Bosnia.

The ministers, meeting in Denmark, had considered possible air strikes in the former Yugoslavia, but after the meeting, several countries expressed doubt that the EC states would ever endorse allied military intervention.

Washington and the NATO allies planned to consult this week about the option of air strikes on Bosnian Serb positions in another attempt to bring a halt to a war that had left 134,000 people dead or missing in Bosnia the past year.

"What happens in the former Yugoslavia is terrible," said German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel. "But what can happen in the future may be even more terrible."

With the vote, the Bosnian Serb parliament set the stage for crushing U.N. sanctions beginning Tuesday, much stiffer than economic measures imposed in May to penalize the leftover former Yugoslav Republics of Serbia and Montenegro for fomenting war.

Lord Owen, a former British foreign secretary, called the rebel

Serb rebuff "tragic" and spoke of "very certain... confrontation" between Bosnian Serbs and Europe.

In Musnew, Mr. Kuznyev warned the United States "not to do anything totally unilateral. Total Balkan war should be avoided by all costs," he said.

However, he said Russia, which had abstained in the Security Council sanctions vote, now supported the anti-Yugoslav measures.

On Saturday, Britain told Canada it would use air power to protect its Canadian troops providing U.N. humanitarian aid in Srebrenica.

Srebrenica, a town in eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina, is surrounded by Serb forces and had been the scene of fierce fighting until a ceasefire a week ago. Bosnian Serbs remained defiant.

"In case of a military intervention, all U.N. forces... will be regarded as aggressors," said Momcilo Krajisnik, the parliament speaker.

The assembly, meeting in this northeastern Bosnian town, followed the lead of Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, who had rejected the plan Sunday in a meeting with Lord Owen.

Serb leaders in Yugoslavia, hoping to avoid further sanctions on an already battered economy, sent a dramatic letter to the assembly early Monday, urging it to approve the plan.

One of the signatories was President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, the dominant republic in what is left of Yugoslavia, whose

vision of a greater Serbia has fuelled warfare in breakaway Yugoslav republics.

"This is the question of war and peace, and we choose peace," said the message. "You have no right to jeopardise and expose 10 million Yugoslav citizens to international sanctions."

But after the vote, Yugoslav Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic signalled continued support.

"Yugoslavia has not abandoned Serbs in Bosnia and will never do so," he told reporters.

Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic, speaking in Pakistan where he had gone to seek Muslim financial support, said he was not surprised by the vote.

Meanwhile Bosnian Muslim forces firing weapons into the air demanded a U.N. peace-keeping platform hand over 260 Croat soldiers and refugees who had flocked to it for protection, U.N. officials said Monday.

The U.N. platoon commander ended the tense standoff on Sunday in the Konjic region of southwest Bosnia by persuading 60 Croat soldiers to give their weapons to the Muslims in exchange for the group's safe conduct out of the area.

A U.N. protection force spokesman said the incident occurred 20 kilometres west of Konjic, on the main relief and corridor between the Adriatic Sea and central Bosnia, where Muslims and Croats, estranged civil war allies, have been fighting since April 16.



A badly injured Bosnian is being carried away on a stretcher by three Canadian UNPROFOR soldiers to be evacuated by helicopter for treatment in Tuzla as Srebrenica residents look on (AFP photo)

83 killed in India plane crash

NEW DELHI (AP) — An Indian Airlines jetliner carrying 118 people crashed and burst into flames shortly after takeoff in western India Monday, the airline said.

Preliminary reports reaching the airline's headquarters in New Delhi said at least 83 people were killed, Press Trust of India reported.

The Boeing 737 broke into pieces as it caught fire, and 18 people, including the pilot and co-pilot, were rescued as firemen fought the blaze, airline spokesman V. Narayanan said.

A senior police officer in Aurangabad, from where the plane took off, said 12 passengers were hospitalized. "Most probably, the rest may be dead," said the officer, R.M. Dahate.

Some of the passengers saved themselves by jumping out of the wreckage, according to Sharad Pawar, the chief minister of

Maharashtra, the state where the accident occurred.

The aircraft, which crashed in an area of open fields and small industries, may have been carrying many foreigners because the cities on its route are all major tourist stops.

No weather problems were reported when the plane crashed outside the airport at Aurangabad, 680 miles (1,129 kilometres) southwest of New Delhi.

Flight IC-491 left New Delhi at 6 a.m. (0030 GMT) for Jaipur and Aurangabad, and was bound for Bombay. It carried 112 passengers and six crew members and took off from Aurangabad at 1 p.m. (0730 GMT).

Many tourists visit Aurangabad to see the Ajanta and Ellora Caves, which contain sculptures and frescoes that are centuries old and that once adorned ancient Hindu kingdoms.

The accident occurred two days after an Indian Airlines Boeing 737 was hijacked on a flight from New Delhi to the northern city of Srinagar. After negotiating with the armed hijacker for 11 hours in Amritsar, Indian commandos sneaked onto the aircraft and shot and killed him early Sunday.

It was the fourth Indian Airlines hijacking this year. Earlier this year, an Indian Airlines jetliner leased from Uzbekistan Airlines crashed landed in New Delhi, flipped onto its back and broke into pieces, but all 165 people on board survived.

In August 1991, an Indian Airlines Boeing 737 crashed in Imphal, in the Far Eastern state of Manipur, killing all 69 people aboard. The airline's worst domestic crash occurred in 1988 when a Boeing 737 crashed in the city of Ahmadabad, killing 131 people.

S. African meeting to discuss poll date

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Leaders from across South Africa's political spectrum agreed at democracy negotiations Monday to discuss a date for the country's first all-race elections.

Communist Party Chairman Joe Slovo, whose group is one of 26 participating in constitutional talks at a conference centre, outside Johannesburg, called for discussion of an election date to be added to the agenda.

"The proposal is that this negotiating council should instruct the planning council to fix a date before April 1994, to be discussed at the next meeting of this council," Mr. Slovo said.

The delegations from the white-minority government and the Communist-allied African National Congress backed Mr. Slovo's motion. But it drew objections from the ANC's main black political rival, the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP).

Inkatha representative Frank

Mdlalose said the council could not discuss an election date before it tackled the issue of political violence that has killed more than 15,000 blacks in eight years.

"I don't see how we could put such a motion over and above the issue of violence," said Mr. Mdlalose, whose Inkatha movement is locked in a turf war with the ANC.

After more than 30 minutes of discussion, the meeting agreed to place the election date on the agenda — but as the item below discussion of violence and the form of a new South African state.

The murder of Communist Party Secretary-General Chris Hani on April 10 and the violence that erupted as a result had added new urgency to the search for agreement on South Africa's democratic future, including an election date.

The planning council to which Mr. Slovo referred is a smaller group to negotiators who have been meeting in private to draft

recommendations. President F.W. de Klerk and ANC-leader Nelson Mandela have both urged speedy progress, saying the election must be held as soon as possible — within 12 months at the most — to defuse tension fuelled by Mr. Hani's murder.

"I am confident that within about six weeks we can make the breakthrough that we need," Mr. de Klerk said in Cape Town.

The talks opened with one minute of silence in memory of three political leaders who died within two weeks — Mr. Hani, Conservative Party leader Andries Treurnicht, who died aged 72 last Thursday, and ANC Chairman Oliver Tambo, who died of a stroke aged 75, Saturday.

The Inkatha Freedom Party said Monday there could not be elections in South Africa before all "private armies," including the armed wing of the African National Congress (ANC), were dismantled.

Li Peng cancels Asian trip for health reasons

PEKING (AFP) — Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng Monday cancelled a planned 12-day tour of Central Asia for health reasons, the Kazakhstan embassy here said, amid rumours that the premier had been hospitalized.

"We have been informed that Mr. Li Peng's visit has been postponed for health reasons," a Kazakh diplomat said by telephone.

Another diplomat said Mr. Li had been hospitalized with a very

high fever.

The Chinese government did not give new dates for Mr. Li's trip, which was to have started Wednesday, nor did it give details on the state of his health, the embassy said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Wu Jianmin, when asked about the tour, said earlier: "We will soon make an announcement."

Mr. Li's trip was to have taken him to Kazakhstan, Kirghizstan,

Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Mongolia.

Earlier Monday, Mr. Li cancelled a meeting with visiting Philippine President Fidel Ramos.

Mr. Wu told reporters that Mr. Li had "just got a cold," but gave no further details and refused to confirm a statement by Gen. Ramos' spokesman Rodolfo Reyes that Philippine officials had been told that Mr. Li was in hospital.

Cambodian politicians want all Vietnamese to leave

PHNOM PENH (AP) — Thousands of ethnic Vietnamese have fled to their homeland after massacres, blamed on Khmer Rouge guerrillas. While condemning the killings, Cambodian politicians are urging all Vietnamese to leave.

Although the rhetoric is part of the campaign for next month's elections, it reflects an historic animosity among Cambodians for their dominant neighbour.

"I am happy to see these Vietnamese people go back" to their own country, said Kao Kong, 56, a driver. "I hate Vietnamese people."

Centuries of territorial conflict, including the loss in Vietnam of the fertile Mekong Delta 200 years ago, are at the root of the bitterness.

During 11 years of occupation that began with an invasion in December 1978, Cambodians hated the Vietnamese soldiers even though they overthrew a Khmer Rouge regime that had slaughtered hundreds of thousands of people.

The Khmer Rouge fought the Vietnamese-installed government until the signing of an agreement in 1991 that brought in U.N. peacekeepers.

A postwar economic boom attracted thousands of Vietnamese immigrants. Most Cambodians seem to resent the migrants more than they do the tens of thousands of ethnic Vietnamese who have lived here for generations.

Battered City Of London gets back to business

LONDON (R) — London's bomb-battered financial district got back to business Monday amid scenes of devastation reminiscent of the wartime blitz 50 years ago.

A huge IRA truck-bomb, that killed one person and injured 44, smashed hundreds of offices occupied by 250,000 workers in the "City" one of the world's key commercial centres.

Police pledged to review security after the IRA's second spectacular bombing in just over a year against major British economic targets.

Defiant office workers returned along streets hastily cleared of rubble. Saturday's one-tonne truck bomb cut a swathe through the heart of the City of London, shattering the plate-glass facades of prestige offices, including the landmark Natwest Tower.

Prime Minister John Major insisted the attack was a failure, saying: "It is business as usual."

He said: "This morning London has given its response: The markets are open in currencies and commodities, stocks and shares, insurance and shipping."

"Even as we repair the damage, the City will continue to operate as one of the great financial centres of the world," he told bankers at the annual meeting of

the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

An army of labourers toiled through the weekend to sweep up the worst of the debris and reopen the area to traffic, while banks and brokerage companies arranged alternative office space for a quarter of a million employees directly affected by the bombing.

Local leaders said the city would operate at almost full capacity because leading institutions such as the Stock Exchange and the Lloyds Insurance Market escaped damage from the blast. The Bank of England said it expected normal trading to resume.

"We want to show that this sort of terrorism does not pay dividends. We want to get the City back and working again and they will not disrupt the commercial heart of this country," said Lord Mayor Francis McWilliams.

The Irish Republican Army's (IRA) bomb exploded in the Bishopsgate banking area, wrecking offices and branches of several international banks.

Just over a year ago, the IRA devastated the City with a similar bomb, striking at Britain's financial nerve centre and casting a shadow over London's drive to

become Europe's leading trading capital.

"You have to show defiance and confidence and indicate to the world that the strengths of the City are still apparent and that this is where international business needs to be," said Michael Cassidy, chief executive of policy and planning for the City of London Corporation, the local authority.

"The more imposition that one has to bring to City businesses, then the more you are giving victory to the IRA," he said in a radio interview.

Britain's tabloid newspapers invoked the spirit of the Nazi World War II bombing blitz of London, saying City workers would show their defiance of the IRA by resolutely returning to their desks.

Police said the morning rush hour was proceeding as normal, and only a small area around the bomb site was sealed off.

In planning the bomb, the IRA shrugged off an outcry over the deaths of two boys in the bombing of a provincial English town last month and signalled a determination to continue its bloody campaign against British rule in Northern Ireland.

The IRA's defiance of tighter security imposed after the first City bombing in April last year

drew calls for yet stricter anti-terrorist measures, with a ban on cars and a ring of road blocks among the suggested options.

"We need to look at the whole issue of policing, what in a free society City businesses can tolerate in the way of increased surveillance and checks," said Mr. Cassidy.

Security sources say the IRA has a large network of guerrillas living in Britain and working in small units. The organisation constantly switches tactics and targets, making it difficult for police to predict where or when they will strike.

Arrests made

Police said Monday anti-terrorist squad officers had arrested a number of people in early morning raids in London.

Police would say only that several arrests had been made under anti-terrorist laws.

They declined to comment on any link with Saturday's bombing by the IRA.

"Anti-terrorist officers made a number of arrests this morning and the people are being held at a number of police stations," a police spokesman said.

She said she had no information on whether the arrests were connected with IRA activity.

Clinton sometimes 'spreads himself too thin'

BOSTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton, nearing the 100-day mark in his presidency, said he has sometimes spread himself too thin and needs to focus on a few big issues at a time.

In an interview with the Boston Globe aboard Air Force One, the president acknowledged that he had had his problems in the White House, partly because he was accustomed to doing things differently when he was governor of Arkansas.

"I do think that I may have overextended myself, and we've got to focus on big things," Mr. Clinton said.

"I'm used to a legislative environment where, as governor, I worked up all these initiatives. I put them into the pot and then we worked them through the legislature," he said.

In the three months of his presidency, however, Mr. Clinton said he has learned that "my job as president is to keep the focus of the American people on the bigger issues that are at stake and to make sure they're keeping the focus of the Congress on that so that we don't get into the kind of political game-playing we had in the last week."

The interview followed a tough week for Mr. Clinton. Senate Republicans killed his job-stimulus package with a filibuster and the standoff with Branch Davidians in Texas ended in death and destruction.

Mr. Clinton flew to Boston to address a newspaper industry convention on a day when hundreds of thousands were marching for gay and lesbian rights and an end to the ban on gays in the military, an issue that Mr. Clinton has supported at a high political cost.

The Globe interview also touched on the war in Bosnia, which Mr. Clinton called "not only heartbreaking, it's infuriating."

Some in Congress have called for U.S. bombing of Serbian artillery positions to slow the "ethnic cleansing" campaign in Bosnia, but Mr. Clinton expressed strong reservations. He has already ruled out the use of U.S. ground forces.

"I'm convinced that the United States cannot just simply decide to bomb a few targets in Bosnia and reverse the situation on the ground politically," Mr. Clinton said.

Mr. Clinton has repeatedly stressed his hope that economic sanctions will force the Serbs to agree to a peace plan, but he told the Globe "we're reviewing our options."

Asked if he was concerned about his place in history if he did not stop the bloodshed in Bosnia, Mr. Clinton wondered aloud why the killing of as many as 130,000 in that war had received so much more attention than the deaths of more than a million Cambodians during the 1970s.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. authorities identify 1 cult body

WACO, Texas (R) — Authorities said Sunday that they had identified the first of 44 bodies recovered from the fire-swept ruins of cult leader David Koresh's Branch Davidian compound. The victim was identified as David Michael Jones, 38, who died of a single bullet to the head. Mr. Jones was the brother of Mr. Koresh's only legal wife, Rachel Jones Koresh, authorities said. A medical examiner identified the body after a post-mortem by matching fingerprints and dental records, McLennan County Justice of the Peace David Pareya told a news conference. He said the medical examiner told him there was a "90 per cent probability" of identifying all of the bodies pulled from the compound so far, a remarkable feat since they suffered extreme heat damage, with some parts pulverised. X-rays and dental records are the primary means of identifying the bodies.

Ex-navy chief faces charges in Seoul

SEOUL (AP) — Prosecutors expanded an investigation into military corruption Monday and summoned a former navy chief of staff on charges of taking money to promote officers. The prosecutors were also looking for a former Marine Corps commandant on bribery and graft charges. The commandant allegedly gave bribes to get promoted while taking bribes to promote junior officers. The moves were the latest in a massive reform drive being pushed by the civilian government of President Kim Young-Sam to root out widespread corruption in Korean society.

CSCE meeting opens on Karabakh

PRAGUE (AFP) — The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) opened an emergency meeting here Monday on the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute, though diplomats said it was unlikely to give the go-ahead for deployment of 600 peacekeepers planned for the enclave. The Swedish presidency of the CSCE called the special meeting of senior conference officials to try to push ahead of group's year-old effort to mediate a solution to the territorial dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan, after hopes for peace were raised last week. The special meeting was requested by Azerbaijan — which lost a key land corridor between Armenia and the enclave in fighting earlier this month — and backed by 17-member states in the CSCE, which includes all Europe plus the United States and Canada. The diplomats said the United States and Russia were among several countries that have been calling for stronger CSCE efforts to reach a permanent ceasefire in the undecided war.

Akihito ends Okinawan trip

TOKYO (AFP) — Emperor Akihito returned here Monday after paying tribute to the 120,000 who died in World War II in Japan's southernmost prefecture of Okinawa, ending a four-day visit peppered by protests and bomb attacks. Emperor Akihito and his wife, Empress Michiko, left Naha, the capital of Okinawa, aboard a special plane after visiting the Shurijo, an exotic palace that housed the local Ryukyuan monarch for 450 years. The visit, the first by an emperor, has sparked an outcry from leftist radicals opposed to the imperial system, raising the spectre of World War II fought under the name of Emperor Hirohito, Emperor Akihito's father. Okinawa is the only site where Japanese and U.S. troops fought on Japanese soil during the war, in battles that claimed 200,000 Japanese lives including 120,000 civilians on the islands.

Pope ends visit to Albania

SHKODRA, Albania (AP) — Pope John Paul II Sunday brought a message of hope to Europe's most backward country and held it up as an example of ethnic tolerance in the Balkans. "Don't degenerate into that intolerant and aggressive nationalism," Pope John Paul urged, referring to the war in nearby Bosnia. The first papal visit came just a few years after Albania lifted a ban on religion imposed by hard-line communists. Pope John Paul, who returned to Rome late Sunday night, focused on tributes to the "heroic church" of Albania and its martyrs and refrained from some of his recent harsh criticism of the international community for failing to end the fighting in Bosnia. Vatican officials said the Pope was aware of Serbian sensibilities if he spoke out during a Balkan trip.

Private U.S. aid arrives in Cuba

KEY WEST, Florida (AFP) — A private U.S. flotilla carrying humanitarian aid arrived in Cuba in a bid to support what its sponsors say is a growing pro-democracy movement there, organisers said. The boats — mostly small craft whose total number was not given — arrived Sunday in a port near Havana after sailing Saturday and Sunday from this southern Florida port, according to the Key West group Basta which organised the initiative. The craft carried mainly food, clothing, medication and Bibles. The conservative Cuban American National Foundation and other anti-Communist Cuban expatriate groups opposed the mission, fearing the goods would help shore up the cash-strapped Havana regime of Fidel Castro.

COLUMN

U.S. gays march with a sense of accomplishment

WASHINGTON (R) — Gays and lesbians wrapped up a massive march on Washington and headed home hoping they had changed their public image and convinced members of Congress to support their campaign for equal rights. "There's a lot of hope and anger. I think it might impress the American people," said Thomas Otto, 23, a Minneapolis, one of the demonstrators. "The more people that can be seen, the more it should help." Mr. Otto told Reuters. By all accounts, the march on Washington for lesbian and gay rights drew hundreds of thousands to the capital. But crowd estimates varied wildly, as they typically do. March organisers and the Washington mayor's office estimated the crowd at one million, which would make the demonstration the largest in Washington's history. But the National Park Service, which polices the rally site, said only 300,000 had participated, prompting organisers to charge that the federal government has purposefully underestimated their numbers.

Man gets 4 years for selling baby sons in China

PEKING (R) — An unemployed man in rural southwestern China who sold his two baby sons was sentenced to four years in prison, a police gazette reported. Ai Bingsheng of Sichuan province arranged soon after the birth of his first son to sell the child through a middleman. When his wife, a deaf-mute, gave birth again Mr. Ai promptly sold the infant off, the April 24 edition of China Procuratorate News said. He made a total of 6,200 yuan (\$1,000). The sale of boys is a growing scourge in the Chinese countryside, where a high premium is placed on male heirs. Many of the children sold are kidnapped from their homes.

Marcos scotches talk of romance with American lawyer

MANILA (AFP) — Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos Monday denied reports of a romantic involvement with her American lawyer, James Linn. "I've not even finished yet with one husband. I have not even buried him yet and people are already speculating (about my plan) to get another one," the 63-year-old former beauty queen and widow of deposed dictator Ferdinand Marcos said on government television. Mrs. Marcos, who gained dubious fame after she left more than 1,000 pairs of shoes at Malacanang presidential palace when a popular revolt chased her family into U.S. exile in 1986, described the reports as "part of the conspiracy. It seems, against the Marcoses," Ferdinand Marcos died in exile in Hawaii in 1989. The former first lady has so far failed to bring home his remains for state honours and burial.

Half-price sausage boosts poll turnout

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin battled for the hearts and minds of Russian voters, but some polling stations were aiming for people's stomachs instead. Commonwealth Television said a number of stations in the Volga city of Saratov put sausage on sale at half price to jolt voters out of their apathy and increase turnout in a referendum on Mr. Yeltsin's presidency and policies. The practice of enticing people to polling stations with well-stocked buffets and music dates back to the Soviet era. Television reported only minor irregularities across the country. It said some campaigning, banned on voting day, had taken place in the Urals, while out-of-date electoral lists had been used in some parts of Stavropol in the south.

Scientists close in on meteorite

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australian astronomers said they are closing in on an area in central New South Wales where they believe a meteorite landed 10 days ago. The white fireball with a green tail blazed across eastern Australia on April 16, surprising skywatchers across the three eastern mainland states. Following about 400-500 reported sightings, astronomers believed the meteorite hit within a 30 square kilometre area of farming land in north west New South Wales. The meteorite ball and its crater were very small, astronomers said.